



# **CITY COUNCIL**

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3065/Telephone 547-7000

### **Charles K. Djou**

*Councilmember, District IV*

*Chair, Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Committee*

Phone: (808) 547-7004 / Facsimile: (808) 523-4220

Email [cdjou@honolulu.gov](mailto:cdjou@honolulu.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For More Information, Please Contact:

Councilmember Charles K. Djou

Phone: (808) 478-0006

### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: NO FIREARMS FOR LIQUOR INSPECTORS!**

Today, Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, Hawaii Kai) blasted the Honolulu Liquor Commission's proposal to give their inspectors firearms.

"The Honolulu Liquor Commission desperately needs reform and personnel changes, not guns. With eight former liquor inspectors now sitting in Federal prison for extortion and an on-going FBI probe for continuing criminal misconduct, fixing the Honolulu Liquor Commission means firing its senior managers and reforming its operations, not giving its inspectors firearms. Arming liquor inspectors with deadly weapons and refusing to take action on reforming the commission is utterly nonsensical and further erodes the public's trust in the Honolulu Liquor Commission," stated Councilmember Djou.

Yesterday, the Honolulu Liquor Commission began considering a resolution to arm its inspectors and adopt policies relating to the use of force, including deadly force. Over the past three years the Honolulu Liquor Commission:

- Has seen eight of its 12 inspectors go to prison on corruption charges;
- Has been cited for "inadequate" and "ineffective" management by the City

Auditor;

- Has abused and mismanaged its overtime appropriation, such that today almost 25% of its budget is devoted to overtime pay;
- Has settled a sexual harassment lawsuit for \$250,000;
- Has settled a whistle-blower lawsuit for \$350,000;
- Was sanctioned for violation of the ethics code for improper acceptance of gifts; and
- Still remains under investigation by the U.S. Justice Department.

Since the City Auditor came out with its critical report over three months ago, the liquor commission has not made one single personnel change nor has a single rule change been adopted. Councilmember Djou is Chair of the Honolulu City Council's Executive Matters and Legal Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Honolulu Liquor Commission. More liquor licensees are in Councilmember Djou's district, which includes Waikiki, than any other council district.

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